

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

A Site-Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

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US Department of Energy
US Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington State
Department of Ecology

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HAB Facilitation Team

Street Legal Industries, Inc.
Richland Office
245 Torbett St.,
Richland, WA 99354
Phone: (509) 392-7778

June 14, 2021

Brian Vance, Manager
US Department of Energy
P.O. Box 450 (46-60)
Richland, WA 99352

Re: Tank and Pipeline Integrity Program Letter of Appreciation

Dear Mr. Vance,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) recognizes and supports the continued excellent work being accomplished by the Tank Integrity and Pipeline (TAPI) Program Team managed by Dusty Stewart, US Department of Energy (DOE), and Karthik Subramanian, Washington River Protection Solutions.

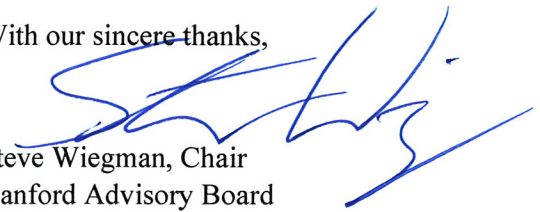
The Board has been extremely concerned about the ability of the Hanford Site's 177 aging waste storage tanks to safely confine the site's estimated 56 million gallons of hazardous mixed radioactive waste. The Board has repeatedly advised that DOE take actions to obtain additional waste tank storage capacity.

The Board's Tank Waste Committee (TWC) has closely followed the evolution of the Hanford Site's TAPI Program. The TWC appreciates DOE's investment in the TAPI program and hopes it continues to expand. Implementing new technologies and obtaining and analyzing new data about the double-shell tanks (DSTs), is imperative to the future storage of waste and the processing and operation of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste program and Waste Treatment Plant for another half century. The efforts of the TAPI program are welcome contributions to support the site's waste tank recovery and processing goals.

It remains true that the quality of the Board's advice to the agencies relies on the quality, candidness, timeliness, and depth of information it receives from subject matter experts during committee meetings and other public information sharing efforts. The TAPI program affects multiple aspects of the tank waste treatment mission and the protection of the environment from potential future tank failures. We wish to express our appreciation for the level of information we have received on this topic so far, and we look forward to working through our committee process to frame questions for future presentations on the subject so we can develop informed consensus advice.

Once again, our thanks to the TAPI program team under the leadership of Dusty Stewart and Karthik Subramanian for all of their past and future efforts.

With our sincere thanks,


Steve Wiegman, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

Cc: Dusty Stewart, US Department of Energy
Erik Nelson, US Department of Energy
Karthik Subramanian, US Department of Energy
Stan Branch, US Department of Energy
Gary Younger, US Department of Energy
David Bowen, Washington State Department of Ecology
Randy Bradbury, Washington State Department of Ecology
Ryan Miller, Washington State Department of Ecology
Ginger Wireman, Washington State Department of Ecology
Dave Einan, US Environmental Protection Agency
Roberto Armijo, US Environmental Protection Agency
Laura Buelow, US Environmental Protection Agency